

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in the present application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~query-assist tool~~ computer-implemented system for assisting a user in creating and/or editing a query statement, the query assist tool having a ~~user-interface~~ system for building queries and a query model definition to populate a query model instance with elements of the created query statement, the ~~user-interface~~ system comprising:
  - means for visually displaying a search condition of a query statement in a first display area; and
  - means for visually selecting two or more predicates of the displayed search condition for grouping; and
  - means responsive to selection of the two or more predicates for visually indicating the grouping in the first display area, wherein the means for indicating the grouping further comprises one or more of the group comprising:
    - indenting the grouped predicates relative to other predicates of the search condition;
    - positioning the grouped predicates adjacent to each other; and
    - delineating the group with parenthesis or an equivalent symbol, wherein an order in which the group is evaluated is controlled in a designated manner.
2. (Currently Amended) The ~~query-assist tool~~ computer-implemented system of claim 1, wherein the selecting means further
  - comprises means for highlighting the two or more predicates.
- 3-4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) The ~~query-assist tool~~ computer-implemented system of claim 1, further comprising means for confirming selection of the two or more predicates for grouping.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~query-assist-tool~~ computer-implemented system of claim 5, wherein the means for indicating grouping are responsive to selection confirmation.
7. (Currently Amended) The ~~query-assist-tool~~ computer-implemented system of claim 5, wherein the confirming means further comprises one or more of the group comprising: a selectable button displayed in a second display area, a mouse click, a keystroke, and the equivalent of any of the foregoing.
8. (Currently Amended) The ~~query-assist-tool~~ computer-implemented system of claim 5, wherein activation of the confirming means causes a model instance to be updated with the selected grouping.
9. (Currently Amended) The ~~query-assist-tool~~ computer-implemented system of claim ~~32~~, further comprising means for selecting one or more of grouped predicates for ungrouping.
10. (Currently Amended) The ~~query-assist-tool~~ computer-implemented system of claim 9, further comprising means, responsive to grouped predicate selection, for removing the indications of grouping from the first display area.
11. (Currently Amended) The ~~query-assist-tool~~ computer-implemented system of claim 9, further comprising means for confirming selection of the one or more grouped predicates for ungrouping.
12. (Currently Amended) The ~~query-assist-tool~~ computer-implemented system of claim 11, further comprising means responsive to selection confirmation for removing the indications of the grouping from the first display area.
13. (Currently Amended) The ~~query-assist-tool~~ computer-implemented system of claim 11, wherein the confirming means further comprises one or more of the group comprising: a selectable button displayed in a second display area, a mouse click, a keystroke, and the equivalent of any of the foregoing.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~query-assist tool~~ computer-implemented system of claim 11, wherein activation of the confirming means causes a model instance to be updated with the selected ungrouping.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~query-assist tool~~ computer-implemented system of claim 1, wherein the means for displaying the search condition further comprises means for displaying each search predicate in a separate line of the first display area.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~query-assist tool~~ computer-implemented system of claim 1, wherein displaying the search condition further comprises means for displaying each operator in a separate line of the first display area.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~interface~~ computer-implemented system of claim 1, wherein the interface is further coupled to an application interface for receiving a query statement from an application for populating the interface.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for assisting a user in creating and/or editing a query statement, the method utilizing a user interface for building queries and a query model definition to populate a query model instance with elements of the created query statement, wherein the computer performs the following functions ~~the method comprising the steps of:~~

visually displaying a search condition of a query statement in a first display area of the user interface;

visually selecting two or more predicates of the displayed search condition for grouping; and

visually indicating the grouping in the first display area in response to selection of the two or more predicates, wherein the grouping further comprises one or more of the group comprising:

indenting the grouped predicates relative to other predicates of the search condition;

positioning the grouped predicates adjacent to each other; and

delineating the group with parenthesis or an equivalent symbol wherein an order in which the group is evaluated is controlled in a designated manner.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 18, wherein the selecting step further comprises the step of highlighting the two or more predicates.

20-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 18, further comprising the step of confirming selection of the two or more predicates for grouping.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 22, wherein the step of indicating grouping is responsive to selection confirmation.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 22, wherein the confirming step further comprises one or more of the group comprising: selecting a confirmation button displayed in a second display area, entering a mouse click, entering a keystroke, and the equivalent of any of the foregoing.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 22, where confirmation causes a model instance to be updated with the selected grouping.

26. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 19, further comprising the step of selecting one or grouped predicates for ungrouping.

27. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 26, further comprising the step of means removing the indications of grouping from the first display area in response to the step of selecting grouped predicates.

28. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 26, further comprising the step of confirming selection of the one or more grouped predicates for ungrouping.

29. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 28, further comprising the step of removing the

indications of the grouping from the first display area in response to selection confirmation.

30. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 28, wherein the confirming step comprises one or more of the group comprising: selecting a confirmation button displayed in a second display area, entering a mouse click, entering a keystroke, and the equivalent of any of the foregoing.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim computer-implemented 28, where confirmation causes a model instance to be updated with the selected ungrouping.

32. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 18, wherein the step of displaying the search condition further comprises the step of displaying each search predicate in a separate line of the first display area.

33. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 18, wherein the step of displaying the search condition further comprises the step of displaying each operator in a separate line first display area.

34. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 18, further comprising the step of receiving a query statement from an application for populating the interface.

35. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a non-transitory computer program storage medium ~~earlier~~ readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the

computer, the computer program providing a query assist tool for assisting a user in creating and/or editing a query statement, the query assist tool having a user interface for building queries and a query model definition to populate a query model instance with elements of the created query statement, the user interface comprising:

program instructions for visually displaying a search condition of a query statement in a first display area of the user interface; and

program instructions for visually selecting two or more predicates of the displayed search condition for grouping; and

program instructions for visually indicating the grouping in the first display area in response to selection of the two or more predicates, wherein the grouping further

comprises one or more of the group comprising:  
indenting the grouped predicates relative to other predicates of the search condition;  
positioning the grouped predicates adjacent to each other; and  
delineating the group with parenthesis or an equivalent symbol wherein an order in which the group is evaluated is controlled in a designated manner.

36. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer storage medium article of manufacture of claim 35, wherein the program instructions for selecting further comprises program instructions for highlighting the two or more predicates.

37-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer storage medium article of manufacture of claim 35, further comprising program instructions for confirming selection of the two or more predicates for grouping.

40. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer storage medium article of manufacture of claim 39, wherein the program instructions for indicating grouping are responsive to selection confirmation.

41. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer storage medium article of manufacture of claim 39, wherein the program instructions for confirming further comprise program instructions for one or more of the group comprising: selecting a confirmation button displayed in a second display area, entering a mouse click, entering a keystroke, and the equivalent of any of the foregoing.

42. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer storage medium article of manufacture of claim 39, further comprise program instructions for causing a model instance to be updated with the selected grouping upon confirmation.

43. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer storage medium article of manufacture of claim 36, further comprising program instructions for selecting one or more of grouped predicates for ungrouping.

44. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer storage medium article of manufacture of claim 43, further comprising program instructions for removing the indications of grouping from the first display area in response to the step of selecting grouped predicates.

45. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer storage medium article of manufacture of claim 43, further comprising program instructions for confirming selection of the one or more grouped predicates for ungrouping.

46. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer storage medium article of manufacture of claim 45, further comprising program instructions for removing the indications of the grouping for the first display are in response to selection confirmation.

47. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer storage medium article of manufacture of claims 45, wherein the program instructions for confirming further comprise program instructions for one or more of the group comprising: selecting a confirmation button displayed in a second display area, entering a mouse click, entering a keystroke, and the equivalent of any of the foregoing.

48. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer storage medium article of manufacture of claim 45, further comprising program instructions for updating a model instance with the selected ungrouping upon confirmation.

49. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer storage medium article of manufacture of claim 35, wherein the program instructions for displaying the search condition further comprise program instructions for displaying each search predicate in a separate line of the first display area.

50. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer storage medium article of manufacture of claim 35, wherein the program instructions for displaying the search condition further comprise program instructions for displaying each operator in a separate line of the first display area.

51. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer storage medium article of manufacture of claim 35, further comprising program instructions for receiving a query statement from an application for populating the interface.

52. (Currently Amended) The ~~query-assist-tool~~ computer-implemented system of claim 1, further comprising: means for displaying at least a portion of the query statement in a second display area.

53. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 18, further comprising: displaying at least a portion of the query statement in a second display area.

54. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory computer storage medium article of manufacture of claim 1, further comprising: program instructions for displaying at least a portion of the query statement in a second display area.